MR. CHAIRMAN : That is okay. Whoever is the concerned Minister, you can put your questions to him. You may give a notice for it. At that time, we can discuss about the poverty line.

पर्यावरण की रक्षा हेतु अमरीकी सहयोग

562. श्री स्वराज कौशल : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका ने पर्यावरण की रक्षा करने के लिए भारत को सहयोग देने का आश्वासन दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजन हेतु किसी करार पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसकी प्रमुख बातें क्या हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (श्री टी. आर. बालू) : (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (घ) ऊर्जा और पर्यावरण के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के बारे में भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका के बीच 22-3-2000 को एक संयुक्त वक्तव्य पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे। संयुक्त वक्तव्य का उद्देश्य स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और पर्यावरणीय सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में और आगे सहयोग में तेजी लाना है।

संयुक्त वक्तव्य में और अधिक द्विपक्षीय सहयोग, और सरकार से सरकार के बीच परस्पर बातचीत को बढ़ावा देने तथा आगे इन क्षेत्रों में सरकारी व निजी क्षेत्र के सहयोग को और प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु संयुक्त परामर्शदात्री समिति गठित करने के लिए दो देशों के इरादे का उल्लेख किया गया है। संयुक्त परामर्शदात्री समूह (क) उपयुक्त प्रौद्योगिकियों के अनुसंधान, विकास, हस्तांतरण, प्रदर्शन और उनको लगाने से संबंधित सरकारी व निजी क्षेत्र समन्वित परियोजनाओं की पहचान करके उन्हें प्रारम्भ करेगा और उनकी मॉनीटरी करेगा तथा साथ ही स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, ऊर्जा क्षमता एवं पावर सैक्टर में सुधार आदि के क्षेत्रों में नीतियों की समीक्षा करेगा, (ख) स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में वाणिज्यिक विकास और सहयोग के अवसरों की तलाश करेगा एवं उनका विस्तार करेगा, और (ग) जलवायु परिवर्तन पर यूनाइटेड नेशन्स फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन के संदर्भ में उठने वाले जलवायु परिवर्तन सबंधी मामलों पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा देगा।

American help for Environment Protection

†562. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that America has assured to help India in the protection of environment;

(b) if so, the details of thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d) A Joint Statement on Co-operation in Energy and Environment between India and the United States of America was signed on 22-3-2000. The objective of the Joint Statement is to intensify further co-operation in the fields of clean energy and environmental protection.

The Joint Statement expresses the intention of the two countries to create a Joint Consultative Committee to foster greater bilateral cooperation, Government-to-Government dialogue and further encourage public and private sector cooperation in these sectors. The Joint Consultative Group will (a) identify, initiate and monitor public and private collaborative projects in research, development, transfer, demonstration and deployment of appropriate technologies and review policies in the areas of clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power sector reform, (b) explore and expand opportunities for commercial development and cooperation in clean energy, and (c) enhance cooperation on climate change issues that arise in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, may I ask the Hon. Minister as to whether we propose to accept the clean development mechanism, which means that India will have to reduce the carbon dioxide emission level, although it is America which is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. How do you reduce those carbon dioxide emissions ? It can be done only by reducing our industrial activity. What I want to know from the Hon. Minister is, do we propose to accept the clean development mechanism ?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, actually India's approach to CDM is, there should be environmental integrity, climate change effectiveness, conformity with sustainable development, priorities of India, principles and rules must conform to equity and principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, voluntary participation. Sir, actually, the clean development mechanism is our choice. Whatever technology that has to be got from other nations, whether it is from the developed countries or others, it is our choice. On the transfer of technology, we have got our own option. But, at the same time, the technology and the process should be environmentally sustainable. This is our priority.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Sir, the answer of the Minister is very vague. What we wanted to know was that although America is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, does this mechanism, the CDM, mean that we alone will have to reduce the carbon dioxide levels; if so, how do we reduce the carbon dioxide levels ? This can be done only by reducing the industrial activity. Only we are obliged, or, America is also obliged to reduce the carbon dioxide level ? That is precisely what I want to know.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : America and other developed countries have got a mechanism. They can fund technology to the developing countries and they can have their emission certificate. The second option is, between the developed countries, they can have the project-based emission reduction. The third option is, they can transfer the emission from developed countries to other developed countries. At the same time, we can select our own option, we can select our own technology. It is for us to see whether it suits our country.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Sir, on this issue, India has been taking a consistent stand, alongwith several developing countries, with regard to environmental degradation, depletion of the ozone layer and such other issues. Our position is that the primary responsibility for the environmental degradation rests with the developed countries and they should take up the major share for setting the environment into the right path. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether India has changed its consistent position which we have been taking, alongwith other countries on this issue, by signing this agreement ?

SHRI T. R. BAALU : The Hon. Member is very correct. The primary responsibility rests with the developed countries. Sir, we have got no target at all. We did not change our attitude even during the last conference held in New York. I have emphasised and re-emphasised that the developing countries,

including India, have got no target. We are not having an obligation or having any target. At the same time, the developed countries have to reduce, for instance, the USA. They have to reduce seven per cent of the 1990 level by 2012. These are the targets that have been fixed; between reduction eight and increase limit to ten per cent, for the developed countries, as per the UN Convention.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the real impact of the question is that under the Kyoto Protocol, to which India is not a party, if the United States, which is a party to the Kyoto Protocol, persuades India and enters into an agreement for purposes of reduction of levels of carbon dioxide, then the United States gets credit for it under the Kyoto Protocol. So, are we, by entering into such an agreement with the United States, somehow indirectly benefiting the United States in terms of the Kyoto Protocol ? That is the question.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Not at all, Sir. My friend, a learned lawyer, has mentioned that India is not a party to the Protocol so far. But, even the United States has not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol. More than 180 countries are parties to the convention. We are waiting for discussions to progress to endorse the Protocol. The United States hasn't ratified it. Many of the developing countries have not endorsed the Kyoto Protocol. But, finally various issues have to be considered by 2000. By the end of this year, every country that is party to the convention, has to take decision on issues about Kyoto Protocol. There is a discussion going on. At the same time, we have got no obligation at all. We have signed the UN Convention on Climate change. We are party to that. Under the Kyoto Protocol, discussions are going on in the multilateral fora. In the last week's meeting also, we have emphasised that India has got no obligation on emission reduction targets. For instance, the average per capita emission in the world is 1.2 tonnes, whereas the average per capita emission in India is 0.2 tonnes only. We have got no obligation at all, as it is.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि वैसे भी यह दुर्भाग्य का विषय है कि जिस देश को हजारों वर्ष पहले वेदों और पुराणों ने पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा के लिए उपदेश दिया और जहां पांच सौ वर्ष पहले गुरु नानक देव जी ने यह कहा कि "पवन गुरु पानी पिता-माता धरत महत्त", उस देश के लोग आज अमरीका से पर्यावरण के बारे में मदद मांग रहे हैं।

सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के "ग" भाग में यह कहा है कि संयुक्त परामर्शदात्री समूह जलवायु परिवर्तन पर युनाइटेड नेशन्स फ्रेमवर्क कन्वैंशन के संदर्भ में उठने

वाले जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधी मामलों पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा देगा। महोदय, जब हमने पी.एल. 480 खरीदा था तो उस वक्त अमरीका से गेहूं आया था और उस गेहूं में एक बीज भी आ गया था और वह बीज सारे देश में कांग्रेस ग्रास के नाम से जाना जाता है और उस कांग्रेस ग्रास ने बहुत अन्याय किया, बहुत ऐलर्जी फैलाई, बहुत बीमारी फैलाई। आज जगह-जगह उस कांग्रेस ग्रास को उखाड़ने के लिए हमें आंदोलन करने पड़ते हैं, खासकर पहाड़ी इलाके में। महोदय, यूकेलिप्टस लाया गया पानी के दबाव को रोकने के लिए। उसके बाद हमारे राजस्थान और गुजरात के इलाकों में आस्ट्रेलियन बबूल लाया गया इसलिए कि जमीन बंजर न बन जाए या यह जमीन डैज़र्ट में कन्वर्ट न हो जाए। लेकिन आज देखिए कि इस आस्ट्रेलियन बबूल और यूकेलिप्टस ने हमारे ऊपर क्या कहर ढाया है। हमारा पानी का लेवल जो काफी ऊपर था, वह आज नीचे चला गया है। आज आस्ट्रेलियन बबूल पूरे गुजरात में लगे हुए हैं और पिछले 25 वर्षों से लगातार लगाए जा रहे हैं। इसकी आबादी ऐसे बढ़ती है कि हमारी जमीन खराब कर देती है और पानी का लेवल नीचे चला जाता है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जब इनसे किसी तरह की टैक्नोलोजी ली जाएगी पर्यावरण को कंट्रोल करने के लिए और उन पौधों को लाया जाएगा तो उनका जो साईड-इफैक्ट है या ऑफटर इफैक्ट है, लॉंग टर्म और शार्ट टर्म, उस बारे में कोई विचार, कोई विवेचना की गई है, कोई टेस्टिंग की गई है या करने जा रहे हैं, मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, because of the climatic change and global warming, environmental degradation takes place. But, at the same time, we will choose the proper technology for this purpose.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : I agree with my colleague, Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai, that the main responsibility for putting the balance right now falls on the developed countries. They first spoiled the ecological balance and they are now asking us to restore it. My specific question relates to part (c) of the reply given by the Hon. Minister. We all agree to have a National Policy also. It is absolutely necessary for eco-system management, as an operating philosophy. My point is with regard to maintaining and restoring the health, diversity and productivity of the forests. Have these points come under discussion with them ? Did we give them access to our forests ? Or, did we discuss the issue or methodology of how to use forests and to conserve them ? This is related to climatic change issues.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, I am going to introduce the Biodiversity Bill shortly. All these issues would be sorted out and the House can discuss these issues. As it is, this question pertains to the Indo-US-Joint Statement.

श्री संजय निरूपम : सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न मूल प्रश्न के पहले हिस्से से जुड़ा हुआ है जिस समय जोइंट स्टेटमेंट भारत और अमरीका के बीच साईन किया गया। उस समय अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति हिन्दुस्तान में थे, वह ताजमहल देखने आगरा गए थे। क्या अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने ताजमहल को उसके आसपास के प्रदूषित माहौल से बचाने के लिए किसी प्रकार की आर्थिक सहायता की घोषणा की थी ? वह आर्थिक सहायता किस रूप में आई है—अनुदान के रूप में या कर्ज के रूप में तथा किन शर्तों पर आई है तथा वह आर्थिक सहायता अभी तक आई है या नहीं आई और अब जो भी आर्थिक सहायता आएगी उसका इस्तेमाल कैसे होगा ताजमहल के माहौल को दुरुस्त करने के लिए ? क्या औद्योगिक इकाईयों को बंद करने की दिशा में या उनको कम्पंसेशन देने की दिशा में भी उस आर्थिक सहायता का इस्तेमाल होने वाला है ?

SHRI T. R. BAALU : The financial aid is not for closing down our industries. At the same time, the American President, during his visit to Agra, had committed, in the light of the joint statement made between India and the U.S., 45 million dollars to promote more efficient energy production and use in India, 50 million dollars to promote clean energy throughout South Asia, technical assistance to development of cleaner air and water, 200 million dollars for clean energy projects through the Import-Export Bank. These were the announcements he had made during his visit to India.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : What about the Taj ?

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, it includes everything.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this whole question of environment policy is a very serious one. Whereas it is true that the developing nations have been largely responsible in the last 2-3 centuries for increasing pollution, we can't simply use that as an alibi and say that they were responsible and, therefore, there is nothing that we need to do about it. It is a very serious problem for us. We may not have obligations to them, but we have an obligation to our own people to reduce pollution, to try and get the Ganga back into some kind of a pristine form, to prevent the poisoning of millions of people, particularly people living below the poverty line, who are more vulnerable to pollution. Would the Minister tell us that quite apart from what America might want or what the Kyoto Protocol might want us to do, is the Government seized of this matter and is the Government going to take some effective steps to reduce pollution in the land, in the water and in the air ?

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, the question pertains to the Indo-American Joint Statement. At the same time, I would like to answer the Hon. Member

that the Ganga pollution is being taken care of. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I is almost in the final stage now. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-II is in the process of taking off. It is an on going project. Because of the diversion of effluents from the cities in Bihar, U.P. and other places, the Ganga gets polluted. At the same time, we are very much conscious of the Ganga pollution. We are taking up many projects and it will be carried out shortly.

Drawal of Excess subsidy by Fertilizer Manufacturers

563. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE† :

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has its representatives in the Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee (FICC) which fixes up the retention price of Urea;

(b) if, so, whether Government are aware of gold-plating of nameplate capacities by some fertilizer manufacturers, leading to drawal of excess subsidy by these companies;

(c) whether such cases were discussed and the excess subsidy drawn was quantified in the FICC meeting held on the 16th March, 1998;

(d) if so, the estimated amount of excess subsidy drawn by these companies through manipulation of capacities since 1993; and

(e) the steps taken by the Ministry of Finance to recover the amount with retrospective effect ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Fertilizer Industry Co-ordination Committee (FICC) administers and operates the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme. It is headed by the Secretary (Fertilizers). Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is also one of the members.

(b) Government is seized of the matter relating to excess drawal of subsidy by under statement of capacities by some of the urea manufacturing units.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dipankar Mukherjee.